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March 25, 2009

Director Peter Orszag
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Orszag:

As a Senator from Alaska, a state that is small in population but large in natural resources and a variety of needs, I write to respectfully request regular updates on precisely how funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will be allocated to Alaska, what funds have already been allocated for Alaska, and for what projects or programs those funds have been allocated.

While I certainly agree with President Obama's principles that the economic stimulus law must be "targeted, timely, and temporary," I am concerned about the lack of information from Departments and Agencies on how and when states and entities will be able to apply for funding and under what criteria, and the process for awarding federal grants, contracts, and formula allocations. Particularly for my state, where the construction season can be as short as three and a half months, I would like to know how these determinations affect the ability of the ARRA to function as a "timely" stimulus to Alaska. I have received inquiries from numerous Alaskan project managers, all of whom are anxiously awaiting guidance so that they may schedule projects that achieve the principles laid out by the President for our rapidly approaching construction season.

I share the Administration's goals of transparency and accountability with respect to the ARRA, particularly given the large amount of taxpayer money contained in the ARRA, the rapidity of which it is intended to be implemented, and the need to prevent waste and inefficiency. The information that I am requesting from you will help me to gauge the success of these goals and keep my constituents informed about the progress of ARRA implementation.

Thank you in advance for your careful attention to this matter. As you work with Departments and Agencies to implement the ARRA, I look forward to receiving regular updates from the Office of Management and Budget on how ARRA funds will be awarded or allocated to Alaskan recipients.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator